

JAPAN.—In 1620 Christians were massacred, Christianity exterminated, and the edict published that God would be beheaded if He came to Japan. This edict was not abolished until 1872.

First Missionaries sent to Japan in 1859. In 1872 there were only ten baptized Christians. There are now about 400 churches with about 50,000 members. In Tokyo alone there were, two years ago, 52 churches with 6,000 members.

INDIA.—William Carey, the first Missionary, landed in India in 1793. Population 250,000,000 with not one known native Christian. Now a Christian population of 2,290,000, of which 593,000 are communicants in Protestant churches, and 250,000 children are taught in Sabbath Schools, in 25 different languages.

BURMA.—First Missionary, Dr. Judson. Landed in 1813. Seventeen months in prison. Two months with five pair of fetters on at the same time. Eighty years ago not a native Christian in all Burma. Now over 600 churches with 40,000 communicants and twice as many more adherents. Among the Karens one-third of the people are said to be Christians.

Judson died at sea April 12, 1850. His grave is in the Bay of Bengal, latitude 23 degrees north longitude 93 degrees east.

KOREA.—A great cry, "Come over and help us," comes to our ears from this last of the Hermit Nations. Ten years ago the first convert was baptized. The Bible is being rapidly circulated and ambassadors come to our Missionaries from towns and cities near and remote, asking for some one to return with them to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop writes of the work in Corea, saying, it "is the most impressive work I have seen in any part of the world. It shows that the Spirit of God still moves on the earth."

AFRICA.—Where Moffat pioneered, Livingstone explored, carrying the gospel into the depths, until he gave the Dark Continent to Europe. In token of the service Livingstone rendered Christian civilization, the most powerful nation of the globe, in her proudest Mausoleum laid down the dust of the humble Missionary of the Cross, with kings and the great ones of the earth.

The Moravians established the first permanent Mission in 1792. There are now in Africa more than 1,200 Missionaries; 7,000 Churches; over 200,000 communicants; more than 20,000 were added last year.

Stanley writes: "When I was at Lake Victoria 18 years ago there was not a Missionary there. Now there are 40,000 Christians and 200 churches. The natives are enthusiastic converts and would give their last penny to acquire a Bible.

In South America, Mexico, Asia Minor, Persia, Siam, Laos, Egypt and the Islands of the Sea, the half cannot be told of the planting, the growth and the progress of the kingdom of Christ.

Never before has the church been so able; never before have we had such opportunity.

God would quicken our activity by the great cry of the nation.

God has given us a home in the best of all lands. He has clothed us with the finest of fabrics. He has fed us with the best food ever spread before mortal man. He has decked us with jewels from the mine and with gems from the ocean. Of us this day He asks as an offering—a sacrifice—that will express our love for our ascended Lord, our love for souls and our obedience to His last command.

It may be that neither you nor I can go, but all can send.

Would that the solemn declaration of the sainted Dr. Grant, of Persia, might nerve our hearts and compel us to noble action: "I dare not go up to the Judgment Seat until I have done my utmost to promote the Kingdom of God in the earth."

Items of Interest.

—The oldest book in the world, to which a positive date can be assigned, is an assortment of proverbs somewhat after the style of the proverbs collected by Solomon. The work is accredited to Ptahhotep, an Egyptian king, and Egyptologists assign to it an antiquity of at least three thousand years B. C. Abraham was called to leave his home in Ur of the Chaldees, 1921 B. C., so that this volume was written eleven hundred years before the beginning of Jewish history. The Deluge is placed by most chronologists at B. C. 2348, so the book, if its dating is correct, must have been written before the flood. Methuselah was born B. C. 3317, so that this papyrus was prepared and these proverbs were collected when the oldest man on record was a lively young fellow of three hundred years.—*Forward.*

—Sam'l L. Clemens, ("Mark Twain") has completed the manuscript for another book, which will be issued in this country. He is now in London.

—A farmer said to be worth \$500,000, living near Eldora, Iowa, some time ago buried his money in lots of from \$500 to \$3,000 in different places, and now he has gone insane and cannot tell where the money is buried.—*Exchange.*

—The New York Board of Education, at a meeting May 12, voted nearly \$1,500,000 for new school sites and other new property.

—The coinage in the United States mints for April was \$10, 410,080.

—President McKinley visited Philadelphia on May 15, where he spoke at the unveiling of the Washington monument.

—The school children of Rhode Island have chosen the violet as the state flower.

—Ex-Mayor Washburn, of Chicago, has given to the Historical Society of that city the saddle and bridle used by General Grant in the war.

—The right of property in private letters is held not in the receiver but in the writer. For this reason, it is said to be the practice in some countries in Europe, when a man of eminence dies, for his heirs to send back to their writers all the letters he had preserved. Neither the receiver nor his heirs have a right to publish them.—*Exchange.*

—The custom of lifting the hat had its origin during the age of chivalry, when it was customary for knights never to appear in public except in full armor. It became the rule, however, for a knight upon entering an assembly of friends to remove his helmet, the act signifying, "I am safe in the presence of friends."

The age of chivalry passed away with the fifteenth century, but among the many acts of courtesy which can be traced back to its influence none is more direct than that of lifting the hat to acknowledge the presence of a friend.—*Exchange.*

—The new seal of the New York University has the old motto, "To endure and to excel," (Perstare et Praestare) and a representation of youths testing their endurance in a foot race and striving to excel in their efforts to reach the goal

first. In the upper part of the seal, as a symbol of the city, is seen the outstretched arm of the Statue of Liberty.

—The Empress of Japan is distinguished for her musical taste and ability, and, in particular, plays the koto—a Japanese instrument resembling the zither—with great success.

—The following information about Greece may be of interest to our readers. We take it from the New York Sun:

It has a population of 2,187,208.

It is called "Hellas" by its people.

The mean temperature of Greece is sixty-four degrees Fahrenheit.

No part of Greece is forty miles from the sea or ten miles from the hills.

About one half of the population are agriculturists and shepherds.

It has an area of 24,977 square miles.

It is the only country in the world whose armies are provided with the Gras guns and paper-covered cartridges.

The Greek flag is a white cross on a blue ground—the Bavarian colors and the Greek cross.

Greece is one of the most thickly populated countries in Europe.

It has few rivers and many hills. None of the former are navigable, and many of the latter are fortified.

Its present boundary limits were determined by an arrangement among Great Britain, France, Russia and Turkey concluded at Constantiople on July 21, 1832.

Literary Notes.

The August number of The Outlook will be its annual Educational Number. It will contain several features of special interest to teachers and students. One of these will be an illustrated paper by Prof. Todd, of Amherst College, on modern methods of astronomical work, with special reference to the trip made by Professor Todd and his party to Japan for the purpose of observing the last eclipse of the sun. Rodolf Lanciani, the famous archaeologist, has written for The Outlook a peculiarly interesting article on Modern Rome, which will be profusely and beautifully illustrated from photographs furnished by the author. Miss Susan E. Blow, perhaps the highest American authority on the Kindergarten, will write on that subject. Professor A. C. Lane writes on Religion among Men of Science; Rev. E. Ross, on Educational Functions in the Church; and other distinguished writers will treat various important educational problems. \$3 00 a year, The Outlook Company, 13 Astor Place, New York.

The June *Chautauquan* is a veritable storehouse of interesting reading. Among the articles contributed are "Paris the Magnificent," profusely illustrated, and "Historic Concord," in which Bishop John F. Hurst gives pleasing recollections of his visit to the homes of Emerson, Thoreau, and Hawthorne and other interesting spots, also portrayed by excellent half-tone reproductions. In the Woman's Council Table Eben E. Rexford's seasonable paper on "Annual Flowers and their Culture" and Mrs. L. Vance-Phillips' "China Painting in America" are of especial interest to women. The entire number will be read with profit by old and young.

"The value of timber yearly cut in the United States is double that of the output of all our mines;" "One-third of the population of this